

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCA-01 SR-02

ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 DPW-01 EA-06 /076 W
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O R 051840Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9094

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 0973

FOR AMBASSADOR L. DEAN BROWN FROM AMBASSADOR RAWLS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: A. STATE 97854, B. LOME 876, C. STATE 95574

1. I SUCCEEDED ONLY TODAY IN CALLING ON FONMIN HUNLEDE OWING TO HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH VISITS OF MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT AND NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER EARLY LAST WEEK, FOLLOWED BY VISIT OF GOT PRESIDENT EYADEMA WITH HIS MINISTERS TO LOCAL PROBLEM AREA UPCOUNTRY, WHICH IN TURN WAS FOLLOWED BY FOUR-DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND. I CHOSE TO RELATE USG'S CONCERN FOR RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO EMBASSY'S INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE DR. DUONG, WHO RESIDES IN TOGO AND SERVES EYADEMA (REF B). ADVANTAGE OF THIS APPROACH WAS THAT EYADEMA HAD ALREADY GIVEN PERMISSION FOR SIXTY OF DUONG'S FAMILY TO ENTER TOGO AS RESIDENTS.

2. I DESCRIBED TO HUNLEDE SITUATION IN SAIGON WHICH HAD PRECLUDED USG'S DOING ANYTHING FOR DUONG'S FAMILY AND SAID WE HAD URGED DUONG TO CONTACT ICRC AND UNHCR.

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3. STRESSED TO FONMIN USG'S INTENTION TO HONOR ITS OBLIGATION TO VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND SAID WE WERE APPEALING TO ALL GOVERNMENTS TO SHOW HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT IN SHARING BURDEN OF ACCEPTING SOME REFUGEES.

4. HUNLEDE GAVE IMPRESSION HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF DUONG UNTIL I EXPLAINED LATTER HAD SERVED EYADEMA IN HIS HOME AREA OF LAMA KARA FOR PAST THREE YEARS. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE DUONG EVEN HOPED TO MOVE SIXTY REFUGEES OUT OF VIETNAM. HUNLEDE FURTHERMORE SHOWED NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN PLIGHT OF OTHER REFUGEES.

5. COMMENT: REGRET TO SUGGEST WE COUNT OUT TOGO'S ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES.

RAWLS

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